



## ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## SECRET WEAPON IMPROVES FIRE SAFETY

### WOMEN'S CLUB WILL HOST FINAL FUNDRAISER FOR THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS

**Elk Grove, CA** – From their mild manner and sweet smiles, you may never guess that the women of the Elk Grove Laguna Women's Club have actually served as the Fire Department's secret weapon against fire danger for the past two years. The club set out in 2002 to raise funds to purchase four thermal imaging cameras to assist the men and women of the Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department. On March 13, they will host their final fundraising event for the project, a dinner and dance at the Laguna Town Hall.

Through a variety of methods including attendance at nearly every major community event, parade, safety and street fair, the club has raised \$31,000 dollars and has purchased three of the intended four imaging cameras. The purchase of the fourth imager would outfit each station in the district with this innovative search and rescue device.

Thermal imaging cameras are essentially the newest tools in the fire service arsenal. The cameras are extremely useful for a wide variety of emergencies. General uses include helping firefighters to quickly determine the "hot spots" in a house fire, locate victims, and navigate through dark smoke filled structures. The cameras work by detecting an object's heat signature. Things like people or fire glow white because of their high temperature. This heat sensing technology allows firefighters to see through smoke which improves their effectiveness and safety. Without the cameras, firefighters must search blindly for victims or for the location of a fire within a structure. This takes more time and jeopardizes the lives of victims and firefighters.

Firefighter John Mendoza coordinates and manages the training and use of the cameras for the department. According to Mendoza, the devices are so sensitive, they can detect the heat left by a fresh hand print on the floor.

"They are our eyes when we have no sight," said Mendoza. "We are extremely grateful to all of the members of the Elk Grove Laguna Women's Club for their efforts on this project," said Mendoza.

Tickets for the event are still available and cost just \$25. The evening will feature live music, dancing, food, and a silent auction. All net proceeds will go toward buying the last thermal imager. For more information call, 686-8107 or 685-2412.

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*"Your Independent Local Government Agency Providing Parks, Recreation, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services"*